

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SOFIA 00846 301100Z

14-11

ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 USIA-06 /022 W

----- 106006

R 300924Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9522

INFO USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SOFIA 0846

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OEXC, BU

SUBJECT: CU/ARTS: JOSE LIMON

REF: A) STATE 98405; B) SOFIA 567; C) SOFIA 355; D) STATE 32743;
E) STATE 41815; F) STATE 99884; G) STATE 83848

1. AMBASSADOR KHRISTO SANTOV, DIRECTOR MFA CULTURAL COOPERATION DEPT., TOLD AMBASSADOR TUESDAY NIGHT THAT, CONTRARY TO INFORMATION IN REFTEL B, DELAY IN OBTAINING FIRM ANSWER FROM GOB DOES IN FACT RESULT FROM MONEY PROBLEMS. SANTOV NOTED THAT, IN ABSENCE CULTURAL AGREEMENT OR REGULAR CULTURAL PROGRAM WITH UNITED STATES, COMMITTEE FOR ART AND CULTURE HAD NOT EARMARKED FUNDS FOR AMERICAN CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS. THUS, PAYING HONORARIUM WOULD BE DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE. HOWEVER, IF ONLY TRANSPORTATION TO/FROM SOFIA WERE REQUIRED, "THERE WOULD BE NO MAJOR PROBLEM". IF EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING COULD BE ACCOMODATED IN ONE PLACELoad, SANTOV WAS "ALMOST CERTAIN" GOB WOULD BE ABLE TO ACCEPT.

2. OF COURSE, WE HAD OFFERED GOB ALTERNATIVES OF EITHER PROVIDING TRANSPORTATION OR PAYING HONORARIUM (REFTEL C). HOWEVER, WHILE BULGARIANS KNOW -- AND APPARENTLY CANNOT ACCEPT -- AMOUNT SUGGESTED FOR HONORARIUM, THEY DO NOT KNOW EITHER DEFINITE ITINERARY (REFTEL D, PARA 2D) OR TOTAL EXTENT OF COMPANY'S

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PROPERTIES (REFTEL E, PARA 2).

3. HAS PLANNING FOR LIMON COMPANY TRIP ADVANCED
SUFFICIENTLY FOR ITINERARY AND EXTENT OF PROPERTIES (WEIGHT
AND CUBIC SIZE) TO BE FAIRLY FIRM? WOULD ALL PROPERTIES BE
NEEDED HERE? IF WE CAN SUPPLY THESE DETAILS TO
BULGARIANS, THEY SHOULD BE IN POSITION TO GIVE MORE
DEFINITE ANSWER FAIRLY PROMPTLY. LARGELY BECAUSE OF LOCAL HOLIDAYS
MAY 1-2 AND 9-10, WE SHOULD NOT EXPECT FINAL DECISION,
HOWEVER, UNTIL FACE-TO-FACE TALKS WITH HANKINS HERE,
WHO WE GATHER FROM REFTEL F COULD ARRIVE MAY 18 OR
19. THIS IS ACCEPTABLE TO US; WE WILL APPROACH
BULGARIANS UPON CONFIRMATION FROM WASHINGTON.

4. USIA: VTR PROMISED REFTEL G NOT YET RECEIVED.
PLEASE ADVISE WHEN IT WAS SENT.
HERZ

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NNN

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